(b) to (e) Do not arise

Impact of big retail companies on small stores

944. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been 16 per cent decline in sales and a similar decline in profit for the small stores located in areas where big branded retail stores opened;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that around 42 per cent of the total number of small stores in the country down their shutters every year and over 17 per cent of them go out of business on account of competition from big retail companies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) This Ministry has not maintained any data on sale turnover of small stores. However, in their report on the Study on Impact of Organised Retailing on the Unorganised sector, the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) have, based on a sample survey covering four cities, reported that the turnover and profit of unorganised retailers located in the vicinity of organised retail has declined by 16%.

(c) and (d) Government has not maintained any data on closure of small stores. However, in its report, the ICRIER has, based on a sample survey, reported that a total of 151 small shops had closed down in the country over an average period of 21 months which is about 4.2 per cent annualised closure of retailers. The report has stated that despite adverse impact, a large majority of unorganised retailers showed their determination to continue in business.

Export through Wagha-Atari border

†945. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has started its preparations to send Indian goods to Pakistan, Gulf countries and Europe through Wagha-Atari border;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the potentiality of increase in trade there in coming days;

(d) the mechanism in place for carrying out trade at present;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) whether the said infrastructure would be of international standards; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) As far as sending Indian goods is concerned there are no records available about exit points in respect of Gulf countries. Trade between India and Europe is however being undertaken through air and sea routes. On surface rote India's trade with Pakistan is carried out through Attari Railway route. For trade by road route, Attari Land Customs Station (LCS) on Indian side is already a notified LCS for bilateral trade for all commodities on a permanent basis, whereas Pakistan is yet to notify Wagha on their side for trade on all goods on a permanent basis. In May, 2005 Pakistan opened Wagah LCS for import of selected commodities from India like live animals, halal meats, onion, potato, tomato and garlic which is still operative. Back to back movement of trucks for loading and unloading for trade between Indian and Pakistan became operational at Attari-Wagah LCS since October 2007. Till Wagah LCS is notified by Pakistan, potential for trade through this route cannot be quantified.

(e) and (f) Developing the infrastructure at Attari is a priority project in the India's proposed integrated check posts Project.

Legal action on grant of patents

946. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN; Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that legal action on grants of patents is increasing in particular with regard to HIV, Cancer and other drugs;

(b) if so, the number of patents granted by Indian patent office during the current year and the last year;

(c) the number of cases/opposition have been filed;

(d) the number of items registered under Geographical Indication Act so far with the details thereof; and

(e) whether any opposition has been filed in this regard also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (c) The details of the number of patents granted by the Indian Patent Office for drugs used in the treatment of HIV, Cancer and other drugs, and the number of cases/opposition in respect of these patents during the last three years are as under: